

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-02 AID-05 PC-01 /065 W
-----052166 251931Z /43

O R 251809Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7222
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU
SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON POLICE POSTS

SUMMARY: DURING THE EVENING OF 22 JULY AND EARLY MORNING
OF JULY 23, TWO SMALL POLICE POSTS LOCATED NEAR THE BORDER
BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA WERE ATTACKED. TWO PERSONS
WERE KILLED AND FOURTEEN WOUNDED. END SUMMARY.

1. NOVEDADES, IN ITS 24 JULY EDITION, REPRODUCES A NATIONAL
GUARD (GN) COMMUNIQUE WHICH REPORTS TWO SEPARATE ASSAULTS BY
"SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" ON TWO SMALL POLICE POSTS, LOS SABADOS
AND EL CASTILLO, BOTH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RIO SAN JUAN,
WHICH BORDERS ON COASTA RICA.

2. AT 7:20 PM ON 22 JULY, THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTS, THE
FIRST ATTACK OCCURRED ON THE POLICE POST AT LOS SABADOS. AS A
RESULT OF THE ATTACK, A CORPORAL,
COMMANDING, WAS KILLED AND TWELVE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. THE
COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT AN ENLISTED MAN, WITH "SPONTANEOUS
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AID FROM PATRIOTIC CITIZENS," REPELLED THE ATTACKERS
THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY TOOK ONE OR MORE HOSTAGES AND ALMOST 7000
DOLLARS US AND A BOAT AS THEY MADE THEIR ESCAPE. THE
HOSTAGES AND BOAT WERE LATER RELEASED.

3. AT 1:30 A.M. ON 23 JULY, A SECOND GROUP ATTACKED
THE POLICE POST AT EL CASTILLO. AS A RESULT ONE CIVILIAN WAS

KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. AGAIN, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT CIVILIANS ASSISTED IN REPELLING THE ATTACKERS. THE ATTACKERS ESCAPED IN A STOLEN BOAT.

4. ALL WOUNDED IN BOTH ATTACKS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL IN MANAGUA. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY CAPTURES OR WOUNDINGS OF THE ATTACKERS. THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THE ATTACKERS CAME FROM COSTA RICA AND RETURNED THERE.

5. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, NOVEDADES LINKS THE ATTACKS TO THE RETURN TO COSTA RICA ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY, OF FSLN LEADER PLUTARCO ELIAS HERNANDEZ SANCHO. THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THEY

DIRECTED THE ATTACKS FROM THE COSTA RICAN BORDER TOWN OF LOS CHILES. NOVEDADES DRAWS THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GOCR IS NOT TRYING TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS.

6. COMMENT: THESE ARE THE FIRST SUCH ATTACKS SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW GOCR. WHILE REFLECTING THE INABILITY OF THE GOCR TO FULLY CONTROL FSLN ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA, SUCH CROSS-BORDER ATTACKS INEVITABLY LEAD TO PRESSURES FROM THE GN FOR AUTHORITY TO PURSUE ATTACKERS INTO COSTA RICA. SHOULD THE GON AUTHORIZE HOT PURSUIT OR SEEK-AND-DESTROY INCURSIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A VERY REAL DANGER EXISTS OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GON AND THE GOCR. EMO HAS NO INDICATIONS OF ANY GON PLANS FOR SUCH INCURSIONS.
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